

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /124 W
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R 061102Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3432

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCEUR

SECDEF/SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJ: YAR ASSEMBLY VOTES CONFIDENCE IN PRIMIN

MAKKI'S GOVERNMENT

1. BY A STRONG MAJORITY, YAR CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY
VOTED CONFIDENCE IN NEW GOVERNMENT AND PROGRAM (SANAA
526 OF PRIMIN MAKKI. OF ASSEMBLY'S 169 MEMBERS, 130
WERE PRESENT. OF THESE, 93 VOTED FOR NEW GOVERNMENT
12 ABSTAINED AND 25 OPPOSED.

2. SIZE OF MAJORITY INDICATES BROAD SUPPORT FOR NEW GOVERN-
MENT. VOTE CAME ON EVE OF TWO DAY MUSLIM HOLIDAY
(PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY), SO MOST REGULAR EMBASSY CON-
TACTS HAVE BEEN OUT OF TOWN. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND
25 OPPOSING VOTES CONSISTED ESSENTIALLY OF SOME DIE-
HARD CONSERVATIVES AND SUPPORTERS OF HODEIDA GOVERNOR
SHAIKH SINAN ABU LUHUM WHO CONTINUES TO BE MIFFED BECAUSE
NEW PRIMIN IS MAKKI AND NOT HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW MUHSIN
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AL-AYNI.

3. CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY'S DEBATE OF THIS ISSUE WAS STRIKINGLY MATURE TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN SUCH A YOUNG DEMOCRACY. MEMBERS DISCUSSED FINE POINTS OF REPORT SUBMITTED BY COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO EXAMINE QUALIFICATIONS OF NEW GOVERNMENT, AND COMMENTED PERCEPTIVELY ON GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

4. COMMENT: SHAIKH SINAN IS QUITE LIKELY TO CONTINUE HARRYING THE MAKKI CABINET. HE WILL PROBABLY FIND SOME SUPPORT IN THIS FROM CONSERVATIVE ZAIDIS WHO FEEL THAT CABINET CONTAINS FBO MANY BRIGHT, YOUNG SHAFAS WITH (MILDLY) LEFT WING BACKGROUNDS FROM SOUTHERN AREAS OF YAR. BUT BARRING THE UNEXPECTED, THERE IS A CONSENSUS THAT WITH HIS CUSTOMARY SKILL PRESIDENT IRYANI HAS FIXED YEMEN UP WITH A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL BE IN OFFICE FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT YEAR, PLACES EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH, IS IN POLITICAL BALANCE AND IS A DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT OVER PRECEDING HAJRI CABINET (EVEN IF SAUDIS ARE RELUCTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS). OUR OWN IMPRESSIONS OF NEW MINISTERS, FROM COURTESY CALLS BEING REPORTED BY AIRGRAM, ARE GENERALLY QUITE FAVORABLE, EVEN IF THEIR LEADER, DR. MAKKI IS NO BALL OF FIRE.
CRAWFORD

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